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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 21 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continued between 8 and 15 April 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 8-15 April 1999

1. In the southern region 171 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 8,000 to 12,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Amarah, Hawr al-Hammar, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Rifa'i, Safwan, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ansab, Nukhayb, Afak, Shatrah, Chabaish, Maymunah, Hayy, Ali al-Sharqi and Umm Qasr.

2. At 0928, 1001 and 1515 hours on 2 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

3. At 1306, 1320, 1407, 1412 and 1434 hours on 4 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

4. At 1416, 1424, 1462, 1606 and 1620 hours on 6 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

5. At 1146, 1220, 1357, 1408, 1442 and 1500 hours on 7 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

6. At 1005, 1011, 1035, 1105, 1150, 1202, 1510, 1430, 1536, 1540 and 1800 hours on 8 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

7. At 1010 hours on 8 April 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 sorties, 12 from Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Rifa'i, Samawah, Hawr al-Hammar, Chabaish and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1145 hours, drove them off.

8. At 0651, 1004, 1010 and 1037 hours on 10 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

9. At 0651, 1004, 1010 and 1037 hours on 10 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

10. At 0922 hours on 10 April 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 33 sorties, 19 from Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Rifa'i, Nasiriyah, Salman, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Samawah, Hawr al-Hammar, Chabaish and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1152 hours, drove them off.

11. At 1430 hours on 11 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

12. At 1240 hours on 11 April 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 23 sorties, 11 from Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Qal'at Sukkar, Ushbayjah, Salman, Hayy, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Samawah, Hawr al-Hammar, Chabaish and Artawi areas. They attacked a number of services-related installations, and the bombing killed a number of residents and wounded nine. The wounded included two women from Saniyah village in Qadisiyah Governorate. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

13. At 0915 hours on 12 April 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These aircraft carried out 50 sorties, 26 from Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Diwaniyah, Afak, Salman, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Samawah and Chabaish areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

14. At 1012, 1135, 1649 and 1711 hours on 12 April 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

15. At 0917 hours on 13 April 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and Tornadoes, and they carried out 31 sorties, 21 from Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace, and overflew the Artawi, Qal'at Sukkar, Maynunah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah, Amarah, Lasaf, Samawah and Chabaish areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1125 hours, drove them off.

16. At 0844 hours on 15 April 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 sorties, 12 from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Amarah, Salman, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Busayyah, Samawah and Chabaish areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1650 hours, drove them off.